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Morning Papers .. 24th April, 1943.  
Evening Papers .. 24th April, 1943.

RETAIL PRICES - MARCH QUARTER, 1943.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for March quarter 1943 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1063; Toowoomba 1068; Rockhampton 1059; Townsville 1103; Bundaberg 1047; and Warwick 1040.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

City	March Quarter, 1943 - Percentage Increase Compared With		
	Year Ended June, 1939	March Quarter 1942	December Quarter 1942
Brisbane .. ..	23.17	5.14	0.76
Toowoomba .. ..	25.50	5.95	1.14
Rockhampton .. ..	23.00	4.13	0.67
Townsville .. ..	20.94	5.05	0.46
Bundaberg .. ..	24.49	5.44	0.87
Warwick .. ..	26.52	6.01	1.07

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase on Dec. Qr. 1942	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase on Dec. Qr. 1942	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939	Percentage Increase on Dec. Qr. 1942
Brisbane ..	14.84	0.61	66.22	1.70	17.25	0.54
Toowoomba ..	18.80	2.22	67.55	0.80	18.11	0.87
Rockhampton	10.50	- 0.10	67.69	1.72	19.54	0.87
Townsville	9.74	- 0.66	68.69	2.38	16.35	1.05
Bundaberg ..	14.84	1.47	66.27	1.01	16.25	0.17
Warwick ..	12.65	- 0.21	63.53	2.28	19.96	0.67

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for March quarter 1943 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 934; Toowoomba 923; Rockhampton 901; Townsville 974; Bundaberg 889; and Warwick 864.

From December quarter 1942 to March quarter 1943 this index fell in Townsville (0.41%) but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns - Brisbane 0.43; Toowoomba 1.43; Rockhampton 0.11; Bundaberg 1.02; and Warwick 0.82:

Rents rose in Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Warwick but remained stationary in the other towns. The Food and Grocery index showed decreases in Rockhampton, Townsville, and Warwick, but rose in Brisbane, Toowoomba and Bundaberg. All towns showed a drop in the price of potatoes and a rise in the price of eggs, but the fall in potatoes in Brisbane and Toowoomba was offset by the rise in eggs and meat, and the rise in rent in Rockhampton and Warwick helped to offset the fall caused by potatoes there.

The rise in Bundaberg was mainly due to an increase in the price of milk aided by a rise in bacon and pork.

Compared with March quarter 1942 the combined Food and Rent Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 0.97; Toowoomba 1.54; Townsville 1.14; Bundaberg, 1.72; and Warwick 1.77. The index declined in Rockhampton by 0.66%

The Food and Groceries Index also declined in Rockhampton (1.30%) but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns - Brisbane 1.44; Toowoomba 2.33; Townsville 1.85; Bundaberg 1.97; and Warwick 0.32.

The Rent Index showed increases in Brisbane 0.12%; Toowoomba 0.35%; Rockhampton 0.39%; Bundaberg 1.53%; and Warwick 5.04%; but decreased in Townsville by 0.12%.

Compared with the Index for 1938-39 the "B" series index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 9.62; Toowoomba 12.42; Rockhampton 7.65; Townsville 6.33; Bundaberg 11.26; and Warwick 12.50.

Rents rose in all towns the percentage increases being Brisbane 1.41; Toowoomba 2.63; Rockhampton 2.13; Townsville 0.58; Bundaberg 3.74; and Warwick 12.31.

Increases were recorded in all towns for Food and Groceries compared with 1938-39; the percentage changes are shown in the second table on the previous page.

#### Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in March quarter, 1943 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City	All Items	Food and Groceries	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms)	Clothing and Footwear
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane .. ..	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba .. ..	1. 0. 1	19. 8	19.11	1. 0. 2
Rockhampton .. ..	19.11	1. 0. 1	17.10	1. 0. 7
Townsville .. ..	1. 0. 9	1. 1. 4	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 7
Bundaberg .. ..	19. 8	1. 1. 1	15. 5	1. 0. 3
Warwick .. ..	19. 7	19. 5	16.11	1. 0. 2

#### Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	METROPOLITAN			Margin in Favour of Brisbane	STATE AVERAGES c.			Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage	s. d.		Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	
Queensland	1063	£ s. d. 4.15. 0	£ s. d. 4.15. 0a	-		1066	£ s. d. 4.15. 8	£ s. d. 4.15. 8	-
N. S. W.	1141	5. 2. 0	4.18. 0a	4. 0		1137	5. 2. 0	4.18. 0	4. 0
Victoria	1136	5. 1. 6	4.18. 0b	3. 6		1131	5. 1. 6	4.17.10	3. 8
South Aust.	1093	4.17. 8	4.14. 0a	3. 8		1088	4.17. 8	4.14. 0	3. 8
West Aust.	1092	4.17. 7	4.18. 9a	1. 2		1099	4.18. 7	4.19. 2	- 0. 7
Tasmania	1108	4.19. 0	4.14. 0b	5. 0		1091	4.17.11	4.12. 0	5.11

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth Basic Wage, applicable from first pay of period of February, 1943. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.



## RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

## THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending March 1943	QUARTERS ENDING				
				March 1942	June 1942	Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942	March 1943
Brisbane ..	917	863	1046	1011	1020	1044	1055	1063
Toowoomba ..	906	851	1048	1008	1026	1043	1056	1068
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1042	1017	1023	1035	1052	1059
Townsville ..	1023	912	1088	1050	1069	1081	1098	1103
Bundaberg ..	(b)	841	1026	993	1007	1021	1038	1047
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	915	864	1048	1013	1023	1045	1057	1066
Warwick ..	914	822	1022	981	1000	1017	1029	1040

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 2.

## FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending March 1943	QUARTERS ENDING				
				March 1942	June 1942	Sept. 1942	Decr. 1942	March 1943
Brisbane ..	901	852	929	925	918	935	930	934
Toowoomba ..	833	821	916	909	912	919	910	923
Rockhampton ..	858	837	900	907	900	898	900	901
Townsville ..	1047	916	977	963	977	979	978	974
Bundaberg ..	(b)	799	882	874	878	879	880	889
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a)	892	851	928	923	919	932	928	932
Warwick ..	841	768	860	849	855	863	857	864

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 3

## AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity			MONTH OF		Commodity & Unit of Quantity			MONTH OF	
			Decr. 1942	March 1943				Decr. 1942	March 1943
		Year Ending June 1939					Year Ending June 1939		
		d.	d.	d.			d.	d.	d.
Bread ..	2 lb.	5.33	5.50	5.50	Milk ..	1 qt.	6.00	6.95	6.95
Flour ..	2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Bacon (Rashers)	1 lb.	14.81	18.05	18.55
Tea ..	1 lb.	26.99	40.50	40.59	Beef - Sirloin				
Sugar ..	1 lb.	3.98	3.98	3.98	Roast ..	1 lb.	8.73	11.85	12.00
Jam (Plum)	1½ lb.	8.02	10.09	10.09	Beef - Steak				
Raisins ..	1 lb.	10.57	11.95	11.95	Rump ..	1 lb.	11.34	16.35	16.80
Potatoes ..	7 lb.	14.88	18.55	18.18	Beef - Rolled				
Onions ..	1 lb.	2.93	2.00	2.91	Brisket..	1 lb.	5.48	7.85	7.75
Soap ..	1 lb.	6.20	6.97	7.03	Mutton - leg	1 lb.	7.75	7.85	7.95
Butter ..	1 lb.	19.00	19.91	19.91	Mutton - chops				
Cheese ..	1 lb.	13.28	14.95	14.91	Loin ..	1 lb.	7.78	8.00	8.10
Eggs ..	1 doz.	19.69	23.05	26.80	Pork - Leg	1 lb.	11.40	16.06	15.90